

MEDIA ADVISORY
April 17, 2003

Contact: Micah Swafford
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Istook to Host Homeland Security Summit

Oklahoma City, OK -- A statewide Homeland Security Summit will be hosted on Wednesday, April 23rd, by Congressman Ernest Istook (R-OK). Participants will include John Gannon, the staff director for the U.S. Select Committee on Homeland Security, and Governor Brad Henry, along with first responders, business leaders, government officials and other Oklahomans involved in homeland security efforts.

Gannon formerly served as deputy director and assistant director of the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency as well as serving as the chairman of the National Intelligence Council. Gannon and Governor Brad Henry are among the featured speakers. Istook is a member of the U.S. House Select Committee on Homeland Security, and says he hopes to improve the dialogue between national, state and local officials on this issue.

“Homeland security requires vigilance, diligence, and coordination from all of us,” said Istook. **“Protecting America requires personal commitment by each of us. It’s not just a national government duty; it’s also a local and state duty, and a duty of the private sector. We need to work together and coordinate how we can best face the challenges ahead.”**

Panel discussions will include various issues related to homeland security in Oklahoma including the needs of first responders, public health concerns, funding challenges, and citizen and business involvement. Confirmed panelists and speakers include OK Homeland Security Director Bob Ricks, Dr. Ronald Gilcher of the Oklahoma Blood Institute, OK State Representative John Nance, Federal Program Senior Advisor Melissa McLawhorn Houston of the OK Homeland Security Office, Albert Ashwood of the Oklahoma Department of Civil Emergency Management, Dick Rush of the OK State Chamber of Commerce, and Corporation Commissioner Denise Bode.

WHAT: Homeland Security Summit

WHEN: 9:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
(Gov. Henry will speak during the lunch hour from noon to 1 p.m.)

WHERE: Central Oklahoma Home Builders Association
625 NW Grand Boulevard (West I-44 Service Road)

Interested media should contact Micah Swafford (202-225-1084) for more details or to confirm attendance.